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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/615,233	07/13/2000	ICHIRO KASAI	15162/02080	4352

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, DAVID LEE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2673

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/615,233	Applicant(s) Kasai et al.	Examiner First Last Art Unit 1234
		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 13, 2000.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Serial Number: 09/615,233

Art Unit: 2673

Applicant: Kasai et al.

Title: Image Display Apparatus

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1, 3, 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura (5601352).**

3. **As in claim 1, Okamura teaches of a head-mounted image display apparatus comprising: an image display element, figure 4 item 3-5; a projection optical system that projects an image displayed by said image display element, figure 4 item 6; a screen onto which the image is projected by said projection optical system, figure 4 item 7; and a combiner disposed between said projection optical system and said screen, wherein said combiner transmits image light and directs it to said screen, and reflects the image light reflected at the screen, figure 4 item 15, while simultaneously transmitting external light, column 6 lines 42-60.**

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4. **As in claim 11, Okamura teaches** of a head-mounted image display apparatus comprising: an image display element, **figure 4 item 3-5**; a projection optical system that projects an image displayed by said image display element, **figure 4 item 6**; a screen onto which the image is projected by said projection optical system, **figure 4 item 7**; and a combiner that reflects image light reflected at said screen, and simultaneously transmits external light, **figure 4 item 15, column 6 lines 42-60**. Wherein external light enters and leaves the system via shutter 16 of figure 4 while the system is in operation, such that the combiner or half mirror 15 also receives external light. **As in claim 12, Okamura teaches** wherein said combiner further transmits image light from said projection optical system and directs it to said screen, **column 6 lines 42-60**.

5. **As in claim 3, Okamura teaches** wherein said screen is disposed above or below a user's pupil, **figure 4 item 7**. **As in claims 7 and 8, Okamura teaches** wherein said image display apparatus has a plurality of units each including said image display element and said projection optical system, **figure 4 items 3-5**, and **figure 6 items 16a and 16b**. **As in claim 9, Okamura teaches** wherein said screen has a retro reflection characteristic, **figure 4 item 7**. **As in claim 10, Okamura teaches** wherein said combiner is a half mirror or a polarization separation member, **figure 4 item 15, column 6 lines 42-60**.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura (5601352) in view of Hanano (6185045).**
8. **As in claim 4-6, Okamura is silent as to further comprising an eyepiece optical system disposed between said combiner and the user, wherein said eyepiece optical system enlarges the image projected onto said screen, and an optical element disposed on an external side of said combiner with respect to said eyepiece optical system, said system having a composite optical power of substantially zero. Hanano teaches of said eyepiece, figure 9 item 13, and Okamura teaches of said external optical element, figure 4 item 16.** As illustrated by the image display devices in Okamura, **figure 4**, and Hanano, **figure 9**, both devices assigned to the same assignee, Olympus Optical Co., Ltd, they teaches of like systems who's features would be interchangeably and readily combinable by the skilled artisan wherein the eyepiece of Hanano could be added to the head mounted image display apparatus

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of Okamura to enhanced the system based on known features on a like device, wherein given that external images or light can be seen through the device optical system with no additional optical power, thereby viewing the computer generated video superimposed onto the real world environment, said system inherently has an optical power close to zero, for the purpose of having no strain on the eye while viewing real and generated images simultaneously. In optics parallel light is said to have zero optical power. As shown in figure 9, Hanano teaches of parallel light reaching the Eyeball.

9. **Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura (5601352) in view of Hanano (6185045), further in view of Travers et al. (6150998) and Suzuki et al. (5537092).**
10. **As in claim 13, Okamura teaches of a head piece adapted to be worn on a head of a wearer, the head of the wearer having a face, the head piece, figure 7, comprising: a hood, said hood adapted to be positioned on the had of the wearer, figure 7; a visor having a first end and a second end, said first end of said visor rotatably mounted to said hood such that said visor rotates from a first position, substantially covering the face of the wearer, to second position not substantially covering the face of the wearer, figure 7 item 13, wherein said visor inherently teaches of said first and second positions for allowing said hood to be fit one said wearers head; an image display apparatus comprising: an image display element, figure 4 item 3-5; a projection optical system that projects an**

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image displayed by said image display element, **figure 4 item 6**; a screen onto which the image is projected by said projection optical system, **figure 4 item 7**; and a combiner that reflects image light reflected at said screen, and transmits external light, **figure 4 item 15, column 6 lines 42-60**, an optical element disposed on an external side of said combiner with respect to said eyepiece optical system, **figure 4 item 16**. **However Okamura is silent as to** said eyepiece in conjunction with said optical element to produce an optical power of zero, as well as said image display apparatus being positioned substantially at said second end. **Okamura in view of Hanano teaches** of said eyepiece in conjunction with said optical element for the same reasons of obviousness as applied to claims 4-6 above. **Travers et al. teaches** of a headset for the purpose of visual display that would be readily available to the skilled artisan for use in Head Mounted Display devices of Okamura in view of Hanano, given said headset represents a design choice known in the art and useful for implementing Head Mounted Display systems, figure 6.. Adding the headset of Travers et al. to the system of Okamura in view of Hanano would produce the system as claimed with the exception of said image display being placed closer to said first rotatable end. However place the image display below eye level making it closer to said second end would be an obvious design choice given such systems are known to be of use in Head Mounted Display systems. Suzuki et al. illustrates such a system wherein said image display is below eye level, figures 3, 7, & 8. **Therefore it would have been obvious to** the skilled artisan at the time of the invention to combine the hood features of Travers and Suzuki to the Head Mounted Display optical system of Okumara in view of Hanano for the purpose of

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achieving an enhanced display, because both Travers and Suzuki suggest said features are useful in such systems, as found in claim 13.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See the new rejection over Okamura which have been reinterpreted. Okamura anticipates the claimed invention as found in claims 1, 3, and 7-11. Claims 4-6 are unpatentable over Okamura in view of Hanano, and claim 13 is unpatentable over Okamura in view of Hanano, further in view of Travers et al. and Suzuki et al. Okamura teaches of the combiner processing external light in conjunction with an optical element, figure 4 items 15 and 16, Hanano teaches of an eyepiece, to produce a system wherein the composite optical power is zero, given the parallel light received by the system. Travers and Suzuki suggest features known in the art for implementing a said rotatable first and second visor end within a head mounted display system.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
5646785.

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13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **David L. Lewis** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-3026**. The examiner can normally be reached on MT and THF from 8 to 5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala, can be reached on (703) 305-4938. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600